

In the specification:

**Page 1**, amend the title as follows:

Title: Catalyst and method for the selective oxidation of sulfur compounds to elemental sulfur[, method for the preparation of such a catalyst, and method for the selective oxidation of sulfur compounds to elemental sulfur].

**Page 1**, after the title, before line 1, add the following section:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority from U.S. Application No. 09/142,309, filed December 7, 1998, <sup>Pat. 6,207,127</sup> the entirety of which is herein incorporated by reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

**Page 3**, at the end of line 10, after "for the", insert --reverse--.

**Page 5**, before line 1, add the following sub-title:

--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

**Page 5**, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following subtitles and paragraphs: